



Communications Office  
Media Advisory  
April 20, 2012

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## Wings over Sacramento

Third Annual Fly-in Opens Window of Opportunity for Sacramento Youth

**Background:** The Youth Aviation Academy at Harmon Johnson Elementary (YAA) is an intensive hands-on after school training program that provides 6th and 7th graders with the physics and the history of flight, followed by extensive work in learning how to become pilots. The program's goal is to open the doors to multiple careers in aviation for underrepresented youth: low income, girls, and students of color. Students work as pilots and co-pilots, while learning how to navigate and control increasingly complex airplanes through simulation experiences.

**What:** The Western Region of the Tuskegee Airmen are hosting the 10 airplane fly-in for 45 Sacramento youth, including 12 YAA Cadets, one student from Grant Union High School, and 2 students from the Smythe Academy of Arts and Sciences. Students will meet actual Tuskegee Airmen and take a flight over the skies of Sacramento with general aviation pilots who are donating their time and fuel.

**When:** Saturday, April 21, 2012  
11:00 a.m. picnic  
11:30 a.m. first group takes flight  
2:00 p.m. second group takes flight

**Where:** 3028 Peacekeeper Way in the McClellan Business Park

**Who:** Col. Thomas Sherman, USAFR (Ret.), Youth Aviation Chair  
Western Region of the Tuskegee Airman  
45 fortunate students, including 15 from Twin Rivers USD

**For questions about the event or for media representatives to reserve a seat on one of the flights (limited number available), contact Col. Thomas Sherman at (916) 960-3475.**

*The Twin Rivers Unified School District was created in July 2008, merging four North Sacramento area school districts to serve 28,000 Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. In the first three years, graduation rates, attendance rates, and enrollment have increased dramatically.*

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